our fourfooted friends

Animal Rescue League of Boston • Summer 1990

Animal Rescue League of Boston

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Our Fourfooted Friends

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COVER:

RESCUE IS OUR MIDDLE NAME
ARL law enforcement agents visit with some of the many animals rescued from danger or neglect, at the League's Pine Ridge Animal Center in Dedham.

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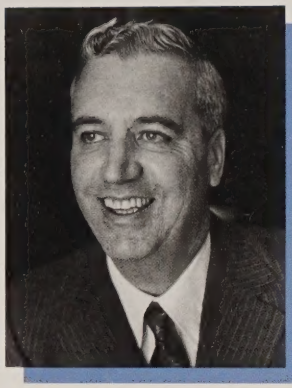


Arthur G. Slade, *President*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Is It Time to Adopt Another Pet?

This is a question I have answered in the negative for some years now, because our pets numbered three dogs and a cat. This past year, our two oldest dogs, Rags, 16 years, and Muffin, 12 years, passed away and were laid to rest on the beautiful grounds of the League's Pine Ridge Pet Cemetery in Dedham. As all pet lovers know, this is a real trauma for the whole family and ours was no exception.

As time has passed, we have spoken of various ideas about another pet as well as the thought that no other pet could be as special as the ones who have just gone. This is always true in its own way, because every pet has those special qualities to the ones who love them. The emotions one feels at the loss of a pet are rather eloquently expressed in an article on page 15 containing excerpts from a radio broadcast by Avi Nelson. Our family shared the same emotions felt by Avi Nelson and all of us had a period of grieving for Muffin and then little Rags.

However, life must go on and we always have the wonderful memories of the past. But there comes a time when we say to ourselves, "Is it time to adopt another pet?" There are a variety of potential answers but most of us fall victim to the idea of another pet sooner or later. In our case, it was rather important and we had particular notions as to when and what sort of pet we might eventually adopt. We had agreed that it might be another feline, but it was subject to developing that positive chemistry between pet and new owner.

In making the round of our recent Open House events at our branch shelters, my wife and I had a great opportunity to look and compare.

The most recent Open House at the Safford shelter in Dedham proved to be the happy end of our search. My wife, Susan, took note of an adorable black and white kitten and we both agreed at once that this was to be our new pet. He was nine weeks old and we have named him "Brewster" in honor of our shelter on Cape Cod. Brewster is a lively little guy and he has become a vital part of our family. He is also demanding at times. And it is amazing how well he has made friends with our other pets.

It is easy to forget the fun that such a creature brings into your home. They are truly baby animals and as such need extra care and attention, but these are the very needs and traits that make them so endearing and help them worm their way into your lives. Never has so much energy been packed into such a small body. They have a magic power to turn it on and off like a switch. One moment they are full of action and vigor and the next minute they are sound asleep. Perhaps one of the most appreciated events is the almost instant adaptation to a litter box. The way they frolic and play and then purr with contentment in your lap makes all the effort worthwhile, even the little bites and scratches that most always accompany the playful times are taken in stride.

Along with the fun and happy, playful times goes the time and responsibility for a new member of your family. Make no mistake, it is a substantial responsibility and one that lasts for many years. It is a long-term commitment that should not be undertaken lightly or upon impulse. It should be carefully considered and planned with a sincere intent to raise and care for another family member. This means time and loving care, food, and all the necessary veterinary care from initial shots and neutering, to terminal care when the sad time comes once again.

If you can say yes to this sort of commitment, perhaps you should consider adopting a pet. All of our shelters have lonely animals just waiting for this kind of home. It would also make "Brewster" and me very happy.

1990 ANNUAL MEETING

"Shadow," a fourfooted hero who saved the life of his young owner last February, stole the spotlight at the League's annual meeting, held Wednesday, April 25, at League headquarters.

The meeting was opened by John C. Hatch, chairman of the board, who welcomed the guests and introduced League president Arthur G. Slade, who presented the League's Certificate of Appreciation to the dog who so heroically demonstrated his loyalty to humans, and to several people who have extended themselves to come to the aid of animals.

When Shadow's owner, Gregory Holzworth, 12, became lost in the woods near his Raynham home during a snowstorm on the night of February 26th, the dog located him and warmed his owner's near-frozen body by laying on top of him until rescuers arrived hours later.

Another dog, "Sadie Lady," was on the receiving end of heroic action when her life was saved by Wellesley Firefighters Robert Clement and Ronald Wilson who pulled her from below-freezing waters after the twelve-year-old golden retriever fell through the ice on a local pond in early March. As the firefighters received their Certificate of Appreciation, those attending applauded a videotape of the dramatic rescue effort.

Edward Fowler, an arson investigator for the Cambridge Fire Department who has saved and nurtured several animals endangered by fires over the years, received a Certificate of Appreciation "in recognition of his long time commitment to helping animals in need, and for the humane ethic he demonstrates to the public through his kind actions."

Dr. Avery Weisman, guest speaker at the meeting, senior psychiatrist at Massachusetts General Hospital, and volunteer founder of the League's companion animal bereavement counseling program, was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation honoring his "limitless ability to offer kindness, support, and relief to many bereaved pet owners, and for the many hours he has generously donated at the Boston headquarters."

Arthur G. Slade congratulates "Shadow" as Gregory and his mother, Donna Holzworth look on.

Wellesley Fire Chief Stephen Black, left, and chairman of the board John C. Hatch, greet award winning Wellesley firefighters Ronald Wilson and Robert Clement.

New League directors Paul Norton, John Sugden, and Mrs. John Dawson, are welcomed by John Hatch, board chairman, and Arthur Slade, League president.

Accepting his award, Dr. Weisman told the members: "seldom have I seen an organization in which the spirit of dedication is so prevalent."

He described the pet loss counseling program as "on the cutting edge of legitimatizing the bereavement one feels on the death of an animal. Grieving the loss of a pet has been what we call "unsanctioned" grief. We are 'permitted' to grieve for relatives and close friends, but it is considered 'bad form' to grieve inappropriately, whether for a person we're not related to, or for an animal." To illustrate his point he told the story of a man who called his office to say he wouldn't be in that day because a friend had died, fearing ridicule if he admitted that it was his dog who had died.

For human beings, the process of grief is ritualized through wakes, shivas, and funerals. For animals, with the exception of the Buddhist religion which has specific ceremonies to mark the passing of the soul of an animal, there are no such rituals, though the relationship may be just as deep, or in some cases, deeper.

Among his initial findings in counseling those who have lost a pet, Dr. Weisman reported that anger does not seem to be a stage of grief in the loss of an animal, as it is with humans. Also, the death of a pet can trigger other dormant problems in a family, especially if the love of the pet was one of the few things which the family shared. The most significant finding, however, is that the loss is authentic and the grief is very real, definitely not a trivial phase or a smokescreen for something else that is wrong in a person's life. "This grief is a very valid phase of human experience, one that strikes at the very roots of love, care, concern and compassion," he stated.

In his President's Report, Arthur G. Slade described the League's 90th anniversary year as a special year marked by membership growth, new programs and expanded public awareness through such activities as Pet Appreciation Day on Boston Common, open house celebrations at League shelters, the 90th Anniversary Animal Photo Contest and other special events. He also reported that the League has now placed more pets with senior adopters through the Pets for People program than any other shelter in the country.

President Slade also welcomed the following newly elected directors of the League: Mrs. John E. Dawson, Paul T. Norton, and John F. Sugden, Jr. In closing, he expressed gratitude to all of those who have contributed to the League's continued support and growth. "We are especially fortunate in our dedicated board of directors and staff members who contribute on a daily basis to the success of our humane work."

Dr. Avery Weisman, center, guest speaker at the meeting, receives a special citation for his volunteer contributions from John Hatch and Arthur Slade.

Edward Fowler, arson investigator for the Cambridge Fire Department, is honored for his history of helping animals in need.

New Promise for Imperiled Dolphins

A Net Win for Environmentalists

A society of warm-blooded, air-breathing mammals known for their intelligence and their compassion, toward one another and toward man, has finally won some degree of reciprocal compassion from humans, with the announcement this past April by StarKist Seafood Company, the world's largest tuna canner, that the company will no longer buy or sell tuna that is caught in a way that harms or kills dolphins.

Two other major tuna canners, Bumble Bee Seafoods and Van Camp Seafood which owns Chicken of the Sea, followed suit shortly with similar announcements, in a move that environmentalists hope will save some of the estimated 100,000 dolphins that die annually in the nets used to catch schools of tuna.

The American Humane Association joined environmental groups around the world in hailing the decision as an historic breakthrough. "StarKist's concern for saving dolphin lives by refusing to purchase tuna caught with dolphins sets a precedent. The company has sent an important message to tuna fishermen that tuna caught with gill or drift nets, the same nets that kill more than 100,000 dolphins each year, are not welcome by American consumers and corporations," said Dennis J. White, director of American Humane's animal protection division.

StarKist also purchases the tuna used in 9 Lives cat food, like Starkist a subsidiary of H. J. Heinz Company, so the new policy ensures that the cat food will also be dolphin-safe.

There are two tuna fishing methods that cause injury to dolphins. White albacore tuna are often caught in drift nets up to 40 miles long, which indiscriminately catch not only tuna and dolphins, but all kinds of other marine life as well. StarKist had previously refused to buy albacore tuna caught by this method.

The second method, "purse-seining," is used to capture yellow fin tuna which swim beneath schools of dolphin in the eastern tropical Pacific. Following schools of dolphins which signal the presence of tuna, the fishermen herd the dolphins and tuna together by means of speed boats, helicopters and underwater "seal" bombs. They then use seine nets to encircle the tuna and dolphins and then pull the bottom of the net closed, like a drawstring purse. Unable to swim to the surface for air, dolphins drown, or are crushed, or die later from broken bones, torn flippers and other injuries.

Beyond the direct physical damage is the inestimable trauma and harm resulting from the disruption of the dolphins' social structure. The social bonds of dolphins seem to rival the intensity of human emotion, according to many observers. Mothers and babies remain together for many years; females routinely "baby sit" for each other; and the herd bands together to assist the weak and the injured up to the surface for air. Those that survive the killer nets are suddenly left separated from their families, facing a doubtful future isolated from their chief source of support.

Passage of the Marine Mammal Protection Act in 1972 was intended to halt this slaughter. The fishing industry was ordered to develop alternative methods, reduce the kill quota each year, and establish an observer program to enforce the provisions of the Act. Enforcement of the provisions, however, were ineffective; observers on tuna boats continued to witness rampant violations, and the tuna industry, until recently, resisted all efforts to reduce the killing. The U.S. fishing fleet is currently allowed to kill 20,500 dolphins per year indefinitely, and foreign fleets have no limits whatsoever.

The historic recent decision by three U.S. tuna canners is a strong signal that consumers can act effectively to stop the killing, by exercising their ultimate power, the power of the pocketbook. By exerting continued pressure in the form of letter writing and product boycotts, American consumers can be instrumental in liberating dolphins from the threat of mankind's destructive technology.

New England Aquarium director John H. Prescott also urges political pressure in a recent statement to the news media. "Voters should encourage legislators and government officials to insist on fishing techniques that do not destroy and kill dolphins. Much of the tuna consumed in the United States is caught by boats bearing foreign flags. The United States government must prohibit the import of tuna from companies and countries that destroy, injure and kill dolphins."

The dolphin has long been known to be a friend to man. There are dozens of documented cases of dolphins befriending humans, and saving human lives. "Dolphins are the only wild species on this planet that concern themselves with saving human life," writes research biologist Sam LaBudde in a recent issue of *Paws News*. "Why is it that they care? The conscious process of recognizing a situation which involves a human in distress, realizing that one is able to act to mitigate that circumstance, and finally acting to prevent death — this is perhaps the strongest testimony to the existence of what we generally term intelligence on the part of dolphins."

"It is likely that the dolphins recognize something of importance in the preservation of life, even the lives of beings with whom they have little in common," he continues. "What is apparent about dolphins is that they believe that human life is worth saving . . . Hopefully, we are worthy of reciprocating their respect for life."

MONKEYING AROUND

The Impact of Genetic Engineering on Animal Welfare

Since the publication in 1818 of Mary Shelley's novel *Frankenstein,* the spectre of the "mad scientist" unleashing a monster on the world has been a frequent and familiar theme in literature and film. With the advances of late twentieth century technology, however, the lines of demarcation between fiction and fact have blurred, raising new issues of profound concern to humane organizations and to all of those concerned with animal welfare.

In April, 1988, the first patent for a genetically engineered animal was issued to Harvard University for a mouse that was genetically altered to have a predisposition toward breast cancer, an animal that has come to be known as the "Harvard Mouse."

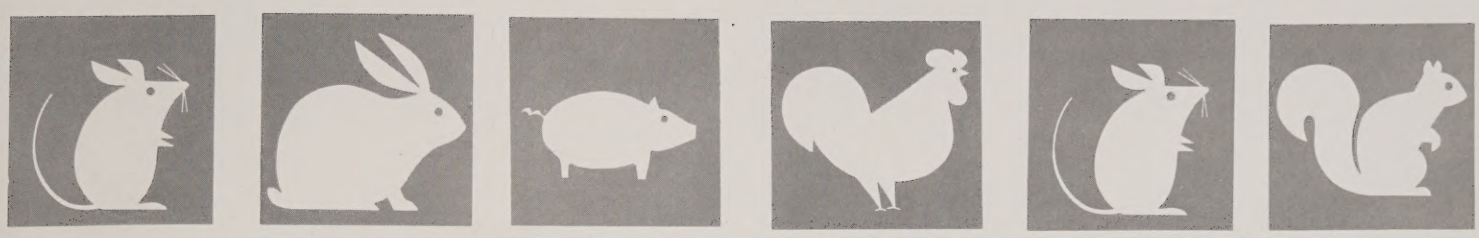
The ability of science to genetically alter animals, to cross species or to create new ones, raises ethical questions of deep concern not only to those involved in animal welfare, but also to environmentalists, religious leaders, and to the scientists themselves.

In an effort to examine and shed light on some of these complex issues, Tufts Veterinary School's Center for Animals and Public Policy, under the direction of Dr. Andrew Rowan, has been sponsoring a series of seminars examining policy questions dealing with animal-related controversies. Four distinguished panelists were brought together on Thursday, May 17, to present their differing perspectives on the subject: "Monsters, Myths and Morals of Genetic Engineering."

Should mankind be allowed to "tinker" with animal species? Should genetic manipulation be sanctioned if it would produce beneficial results for mankind? If so, who will set the limits? Historically, these kinds of questions generate two extremely divergent responses. On the one hand are those who say such work should be allowed to continue totally unfettered in the service of scientific progress. On the other side are those who call for immediate cessation, on the grounds that such experimentation goes against the laws of God and nature.

"Both views are equally unviable," according to philosopher Bernard Rollin, Ph.D. of Colorado State University, featured speaker at the seminar. In an effort to separate myth from genuine moral concerns, Dr. Rollin used the framework of what he calls "the Frankenstein thing," as a symbol of society's way of representing its fear and horror of a science and technology that could, indeed, create a monster.

Objections to science based on the premise that "there are certain things man was not meant to know," or "species ought not be changed in our hands," may or may not be valid, but they are quasi-theological objections, not neces-



WITH GENES

sarily rooted in moral or ethical truths, in Dr. Rollin's opinion.

"In order to identify legitimate moral concerns, we must move on to other issues," he stated, one of which is the idea of unleashing something dangerous on society. Among the potential dangers of genetic manipulation cited by Dr. Rollin were the detrimental effects on animals due to rapid, wholesale changes in a species, as opposed to traditional breeding changes which took place over a long period of time. Modified animals also may not be able to adapt to the organisms which they would normally host. There is also a threat to genetic vigor in a species because of the potential narrowing of the gene pool — sudden, wholesale "inbreeding." Another threat is the production of an unsuspected danger to humans, such as producing beef cattle with new hormones that are carcinogenic, for example.

Other concerns included the environmental effect of unleashing new types of animals in an environment that they were not intended to inhabit; the need for a ban on military uses of such biotechnology; and an awareness of the potential economic effects on society.

"Fish Gotta' Swim"

A primary ethical question, however, is the effect on the creature itself. "Our moral obligation to animals stems from a hypothesis as to what matters to the animals in terms of frustrating their special needs and natures," Dr. Rollin stated. "Clearly, animals have natures, recognizable by both biology and by common sense — 'fish gotta' swim, birds gotta' fly'!"

But while it is obviously wrong to feel that an animal's only purpose is to serve mankind, Dr. Rollin feels it is equally wrong to believe that an animal's nature is totally unviolable. "What I do say is that nature should not be changed in such a way that an animal's natural urges are frustrated. Our main challenge is to avoid altering animals in a quest for efficiency and productivity, at the expense of the animal's happiness or satisfaction of its nature." As examples of this dangerous course of action, he pointed to harm already done in the name of productivity to veal calves reared in captivity, and to genetically engineered large chickens and a so-called "super pig," both of which suffer from joint degeneration and arthritis.

In conclusion, Dr. Rollin stated: "Genetic engineering of life forms in and of itself is morally neutral. If guided by principle, with moral thinking tempering its development, it can be good. If done only for profits, it is harmful." As a guiding principle, he suggested that "genetically engineered animals, and their parent stock, should suffer no more from genetic engineering than they would have without it."

Responsibility for Life

Responding to Dr. Rollin's views, panelist Thomas A. Shannon, Ph.D., of the department of humanities at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, urged even greater caution. "In my opinion, genetic engineering is clearly *not* morally neutral, but occurs in a context defined by values. The concept of responsibility for life is a *core* moral issue, as well as a religious and philosophic question."

He urged scientists not to be afraid to question themselves, and called for further investigation of a variety of issues. "It is critical that we understand that life is not necessarily confined to a rigid, unchanging nature, but it is difficult to know, particularly in higher animals, just what the nature *is* that we are altering. How do we know an animal's true nature? On what basis do we determine to alter it? What gives us the right to make these changes?"

Panelist Mark Ratner, senior editor of *BioTechnology*, looked at the subject from the economic and commercial perspective. "In reality," he said, "commercial interests will be the bottom line in motivating genetic alteration of animals." He called for upfront disclosure from companies so that issues can be examined prior to granting approval for a course of action, rather than after the fact, as has often been the case.

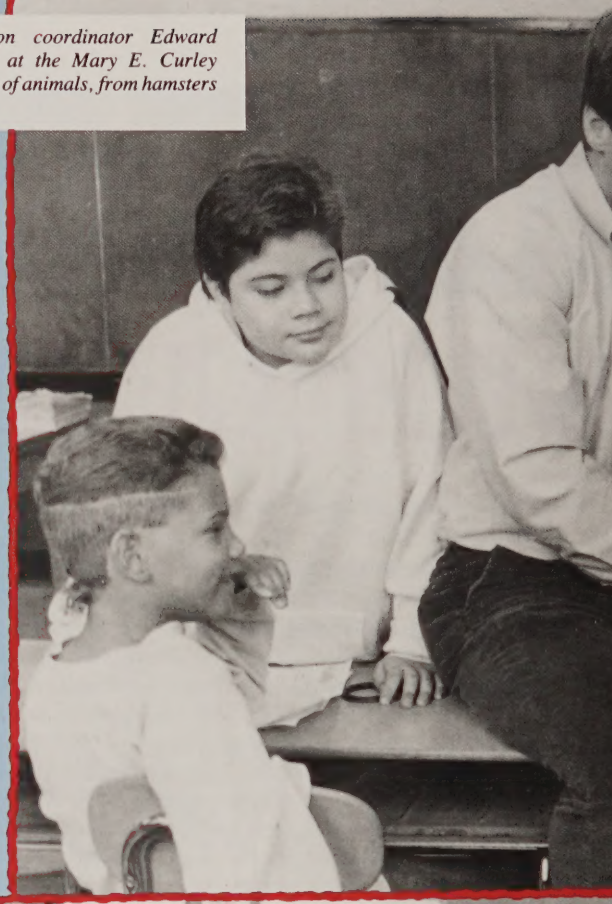
New Guidelines Needed

The key question that should be asked, according to Charles Weiner, Ph.D., of M.I.T.'s program in science, technology and society, is: "What happens when genes are put together in a new way? Where do we draw the line? When do we draw the line? Is it appropriate for publicly-funded research to have priorities set by the marketplace?" Noting that in the past animal research guidelines have been established only in response to past problems, Dr. Weiner called for a committee to be established that would anticipate future priorities and concerns. Dr. Rollin reinforced his view, citing the need now for an equivalent of the Animal Welfare Act in the genetic engineering field.

In summing up his views, Dr. Shannon said: "We *know* what the impact of science is in our culture; but we simply do not believe that science can lead us astray. I can foresee, for example, a researcher in the not too distant future undertaking the irresponsible, but almost irresistible, experiment of blending the genetic materials of a human and a chimpanzee. Science should *not* be allowed to do its own thing. We *should* be afraid, if that fear prompts us to treat our scientific capabilities with a healthy respect."

Dr. Rollin concluded the discussion by reminding the seminar participants that "though Frankenstein was in fact the name of the scientist, virtually everyone thinks it is the name of the monster."

ARL's humane education coordinator Edward Powers teaches students at the Mary E. Curley School to care for all kinds of animals, from hamsters to horses.



When School Days Become Dog Days

By Terrie Bierig-Neyland

As a result of the closing of several Boston City elementary and middle schools, the League's long-time humane education program with the Charles E. Mackey School came to an end in 1990. Edward Powers, League Humane Education Coordinator, sought out a new school to work with and decided upon the Mary E. Curley School in Jamaica Plain. The Mary E. Curley School is a public institution that has been in existence for sixty years. Two sixth-grade classes participated in the humane education program with Edward Powers, Liz Chartier's class and Paula Shinnick's class, for a total of thirty-five students attending. Liz Chartier's class is a bi-lingual class with Spanish being the primary language of the students.

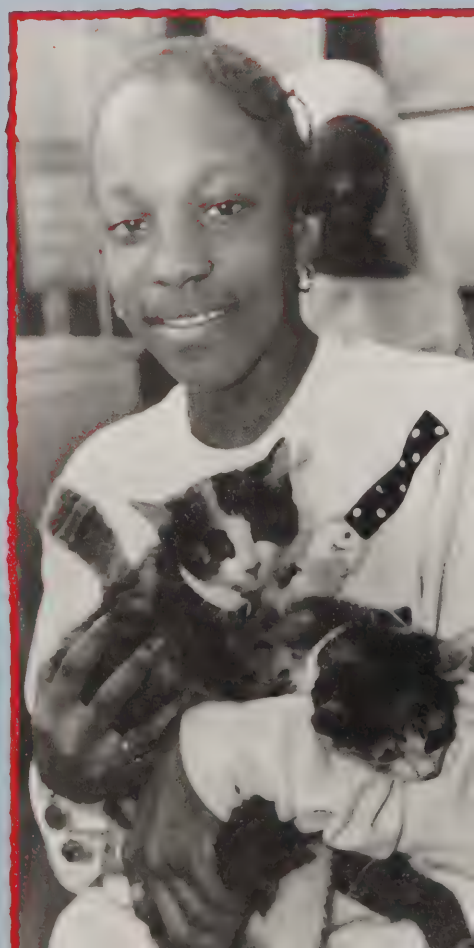
During the course of the 11-week program, the students were treated to a variety of animal-related lessons through demonstrations by the New England Wildlife Center on raptors and "predators and prey," dog grooming by Christine Palmer, hearing ear dogs by Red Acre Hearing Dog Center, and "Safety With Pets" and "Proper Pet Care" by Edward Powers. There were several field trips scheduled which included tours of the Animal Rescue League of Boston shelter and clinic facilities, the South Shore Natural Science Center, and the Boston Police Mounted Patrol horse barns. The highlight came when the students attended the League's Animal Friends Summer School in Falmouth for the final week of the program. At the school the students experienced the thrill of hands-on access to animals as diverse as dogs,

At right, sixth grader Nakia Wright gets acquainted with two special classroom guests; below, a

cats, hamsters, and rabbits. The Animal Friends Summer School farm offered students experience caring for animals they might not otherwise have the opportunity to learn about such as horses, a cow, piglets, sheep, and chickens. The students spent the week investigating ocean life forms, ecology and learning the proper ways to care for and feed all the animals living at the school.

The goal of this humane education program was to instill the beginnings of or reinforce a humane understanding of animals in the attending students. "If I could choose one chunk of knowledge for these students to carry away from these past 11 weeks," said Powers, "it would be the realization that part of our responsibility as human beings is to treat 'lesser' creatures with respect and kindness." From all indications, the students from the Mary E. Curley school will be a credit to the League's humane education program. The students, according to Edward Powers, were "polite, enthusiastic, and sensitive to the needs of the animals they visited." When asked to recall what they learned from the program each student had a different answer which reflected their own interests and personality. Jorge Bolanos, 13, said, "Well, first of all, I know that it is a hard job taking care of an animal so you have to think if you are up to the responsibility." While Nahee Sheppard, 11, was "amazed to find out how snakes have babies." Jessica Enid Sebron, 13, was saddened to learn about animal abuse and concluded, "I think people should be nicer to animals because some animals look mean but are really harmless."

The end of the first year of the Mary E. Curley School participation with the League came too soon for all involved. Everyone involved came away from the program with more knowledge and understanding of people and animals than when they began. One thing is for certain, the students at the Mary E. Curley School **do** care about animals. Kevin Shaw, 13, explained why he especially likes dogs, "The reason why I like dogs is because they keep me company when I need it. I just love that." When Latoya Chentel Devon Carney, 13, said goodbye she expressed what many were feeling, "I love every animal and I also love the way you take care of animals. Goodbye and thank-you for our enjoyment."



trots over to bid farewell to students after their field trip to the Boston Mounted Police horse barns.

A Veterinary Update:

On the Road with Pets

By Edward A. Leonard, D.V.M.

If you're planning to go hiking, camping or traveling with your pets this summer, or simply expect them to be spending more time outdoors near wooded areas, you should be aware of the increased health threat posed by Lyme disease. A serious infection transmitted by the bite of certain kinds of ticks, Lyme disease has received a large amount of media attention as a threat to humans, but many people are unaware that the disease can also affect domestic pets, horses and other animals.

Lyme disease, which is carried in the Northeast by the deer tick and in the West by the California black-legged tick, may start out as a skin rash in the area of the bite, but progresses to severe arthritis, and ultimately heart and neurological damage. If detected early, the disease can be treated with antibiotics, so early diagnosis is essential. In dogs, the first signs of the disease may be sudden lameness, swelling of joints and loss of appetite. Cats will exhibit the same symptoms, and may sleep excessively, although cats seem to contract Lyme disease less frequently than other animals. If your pet exhibits any of these symptoms, or if you suspect your pet has been bitten by the tick, your veterinarian can perform a simple diagnostic test to determine if the animal has been infected.

Lyme disease has been reported in 43 states in the U.S., but ninety percent of the cases have occurred in only eight states, one of which is Massachusetts. High risk areas in the Commonwealth include towns surrounding the Connecticut River Valley in western Massachusetts, coastal areas, Cape Cod and the islands.

The best way to prevent Lyme disease is to limit your pets' activities outdoors, and to inspect their coats carefully once or twice a day. Brush the coat over a light surface so you can see if any ticks have been dislodged. They are dark brown, and approximately the size of a pinhead, so look carefully. If you see a tick attached to the skin, remove it by grasping just beneath the surface of the skin with tweezers, as close to the head of the tick as possible. Pull slowly and gently to remove it, and wash the bite area with antiseptic. Your veterinarian can also give you information on which insecticides and repellents, including sprays, dips and collars, can best protect your pet against tick bites.

Up in the Air about Tranquilizers?

Pet owners frequently ask if tranquilizers are appropriate to calm pets down for a plane trip, or even a long car ride. Generally, tranquilizers should not be given routinely, but used only if absolutely necessary. This is particularly true if the animal is going to be subjected to temperature extremes, either very hot or very cold, as in the case of an airplane cargo hold area. When it is sedated, an animal cannot exercise the adaptive mechanisms that it would normally use when in control, such as shivering to warm up, or panting to cool down.

If your pet suffers from motion sickness, an over-the-counter medication such as Dramamine can be administered safely and effectively. For a dog, the recommended dosage is 25 to 50 milligrams, given orally once to three times a day, depending on the animal's size and its reaction to the medication. For cats, administer 12.5 milligrams orally, once to three times a day. Dramamine will also act to calm the animal down, without totally sedating it.

/Canines lend ears

OPEN HOUSE *Celebrations*

Visitors to a series of spring open houses at the League's branch shelters enjoyed a variety of animal related demonstrations, including presentations by Red Acre Hearing Dog Center's Melanie Stillson, with "Trevor" (above) and horse farrier Randy Kersham; dog grooming (left) by Pedigree Institute and (below) members of the Orleans K-9 Police Unit. Many were seeking pets to adopt, including Andrea, 5, and Jimmy Kelsey, 3, of Harwich, shown above.

Congratulations to Jay Walter Mead (below), long term volunteer, who received a special award from Arthur Slade, League president, and Lynda Brogden, manager of the Cape Cod Branch.

SALEM

CAPE COD

NEWSFRONT

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

ARL COSPONSORS HORSE ABUSE SEMINAR

Animal control and law enforcement agents from the area explored the warning signs and remedies for suspected horse abuse at a Horse Abuse Investigation Seminar sponsored by the League and the Massachusetts S.P.C.A., in conjunction with the American Humane Association. The seminar was held at the Macomber Farms in Framingham, May 2-4. Seminar leaders from the League included Thomas E. White, director of operations, and Alan Borgal, law enforcement agent.

A NEW "LEASH" ON LIFE FOR INJURED DOG

Hull firefighters Chris Russo, left, and John Clasby get acquainted with their new pet, an 11-month old German shepherd named "Fuzzy," whose previous owners had given him up because of what they described as his "testy nature." When League staff members examined the dog, however, they discovered that he had good cause to be grouchy. His collar, hidden under a bushy coat of hair, had grown too tight and become imbedded in his neck, leaving a deep painful gash. The previous owners had evidently placed the collar on him when he was a puppy and neglected to loosen it as he grew. After treatment and recuperation, the dog grew calm, gentle and friendly, and was offered for adoption. The Hull firefighters were among a number of people who contacted the League after seeing the dog's photo and story in the *Boston Herald*.

A LITTLE BARK IMPROVES THE BITE

Local dentist Dr. Neale Eckstein of Concord, named "Best Kids' Dentist" by *Boston Magazine*, will be featured in a show about dogs on the Discovery Channel next fall. Dr. Eckstein uses canines (the four-footed variety) to distract his young patients while he drills their teeth. The dental assistant dogs are Niblets and Silky, both Maltese, and a toy poodle named Nikki.

PANEL CALLS FOR SEA TURTLE PROTECTIONS

A National Research Council committee, meeting in Washington in early May, called for the use of turtle-excluder devices by shrimp trawlers, estimating that between 11,000 and 44,000 sea turtles drown each year after becoming ensnared in shrimp trawler nets. Five endangered species of sea turtles live in the U.S. waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, according to the Associated Press report.

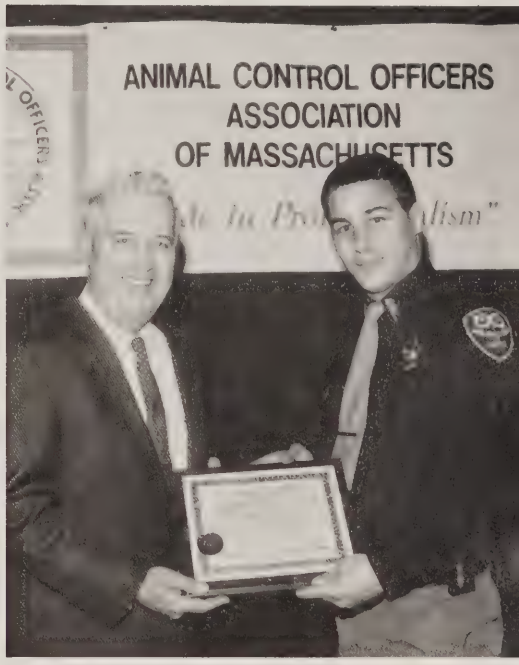
STARLING SURVIVES A STICKY PREDICAMENT

Responding to a radio call for help in late May, League agent Peter Faux found this starling which had been caught in a glue trap device in the attic of a South Boston home. The trap had been set by a pest control company summoned when the family suspected that a raccoon or a squirrel was living in their attic. The bird was washed with dishwashing liquid to remove the glue and treated for shock. Despite several missing tail feathers, the starling was still able to fly and was released after treatment.

Another bird in distress — a crow with a broken wing — is also currently recuperating under agent Faux's care. A family found the injured bird in their back yard and, fearing that dogs would get at it, called the League for help. The broken wing was set by League veterinarians and the bird is on the road to recovery.

LEAGUE STAFF MEMBERS RECEIVE CERTIFICATION

Two members of the League staff recently completed requirements for certification by the Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts (ACOAM). Receiving their certificates from Arthur G. Slade, League president, are Sandy Lupe, assistant manager of the Cape Cod Branch in Brewster, and James A. Stasio, manager of the Sheldon Branch in Salem.



A TRIBUTE TO A FRIEND

Ed. Note: *On April 23rd, WEEI editorial director Avi Nelson delivered a touching tribute to his dog who had just died. He wished to share with his radio audience "an experience I know many of you have had." Here are some excerpts from his In Memoriam message:*

"My dog Truphy just died of cancer. Truphy was a magnificent Australian shepherd, gifted with an extraordinary combination of intelligence, intuition and, as the French would say, élan. Élan means enthusiasm, dash, style and flair. That was Truph.

In F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel *This Side of Paradise* there is a poem which captures the transient, temporary nature of the good things in life. It goes:

> For this is wisdom — to love and live,
> To take what fate or the gods may give,
> To ask no question, to make no prayer,
> To kiss the lips and caress the hair,
> Speed passion's ebb as we greet its flow.
> To have and to hold, and, in time — let go

Truphy fought the disease gallantly and stoicly, as was his nature. He received excellent attention and care from the sensitive, knowledgeable doctors at the Tufts Veterinary Hospital. But when the cancer returned with deadly extent, compassion and friendship compelled. I let Truphy go.

I received condolence cards . . . One of the cards contained a lovely thought. It read: "Somewhere there is a happier place . . and we should somehow be happier knowing that our special friend has run ahead to wait for us there."

Sadness and a sense of love have followed Truphy's death. But they are triumphed over by the memories of eleven years of devotion and companionship; of his boundlessly enthusiastic greetings when I would come home; of his eagerness to please; of the moments of comedy and fun; and especially of his contentment just to be together with his person.

Haven't all of us who have had pets marvelled at how they never seem to have bad moods or reproachful thoughts? Their love is unchallenging and unconditional. It is one of the cruel assignments of Nature that our pets' lives are so much shorter than our own.

Now the collar and the food dish are put away, the water bowl is out only for the cats. The house seems empty and too quiet, as if bearing mute awkward witness to the loss of a true and faithful friend."

Horse Sense

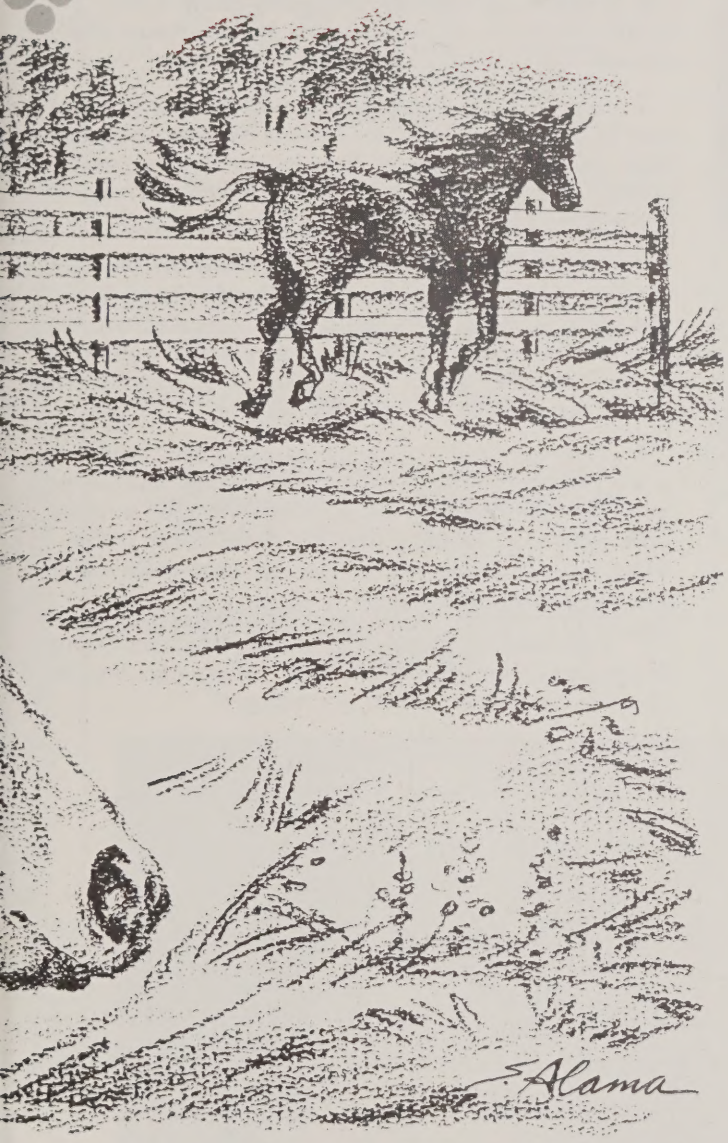
by Edward A. Powers

Have you ever watched a horse grazing or running in a field and wished that you could have it as your own pet? I thought I would love to have a horse, but I had to ask myself, "How do I care for one?"

One morning, during my summer vacation, my mother brought me to a horse stable called Rolling Oaks Farm. During our visit I met Al, the stable manager. He told me that he was in charge of caring for all the horses at Rolling Oaks Farm. I was full of questions and Al said that he would be happy to answer them for me while he gave my Mom and I a tour of the stable. "Do all horses need to live in a barn like this?" I asked. "Yes, they certainly do need a barn," Al answered, "Horses, like people, need a safe, comfortable place to stay." Al explained further that, "A horse should stay in a *stall* that is at least 10 feet long by 10 feet wide. A horse's stall is like it's bedroom — a place to rest. You must keep it clean and dry by *mucking it out* every day and adding fresh bedding. Many barns use wood shavings for bedding. If your horse must stay outside, you should provide it with a three-sided shelter, with a roof, that faces south. That way, when it rains or snows it will have shelter. Even though horses grow a thick, protective coat in the winter, they still chill easily when they become wet."

"We have a small backyard, but it is large enough for a three-sided shed," I exclaimed, "I don't think it would be a problem to keep a horse there." "Well, most cities and towns will not allow you to keep a horse on your property unless you have a certain amount of land," Al explained. "The area should be fenced-in so that your horse can get plenty of exercise, grass, and fresh air. You do not want to keep your horse inside for too long because it may become bored and develop some bad habits such as: kicking, biting, *cribbing,* or weaving back and forth. These are usually signs that a horse is not happy."

"Now I understand that a horse needs plenty of attention and space to exercise in," I said, "but what about food? Do they only eat grass?" Al explained, "Wild horses that live out on the plains might survive on grass alone, but your horse would need a balanced diet of hay and grain twice a day, morning and evening. He also would need to have plenty of fresh, clean water around at all times. You may even need to provide him with a salt or mineral block since horses lose salt when they exercise and sweat."



I told Al that I would ride or exercise my horse every day because I know he needs it. "I have seen horses that have been ridden very hard and over-exercised," I explained. "Is that when a horse will need food and water the most?" I asked. Al frowned. "This is often a problem," he said, "even though your horse looks as if he wants food and water more than anything in the world, he can become very sick if he eats or drinks right after exercising. You need to walk him around for a while so that he cools down. After he has cooled off he can eat and drink."

"What else do I need to know about before getting a horse?" I asked. "Well," Al began, "you need to *groom* your horse regularly and clean out his hooves, including just before you ride it. You will also need to hire a *farrier* to trim his hooves and put on horseshoes if necessary. The farrier should visit every 6 to 8 weeks." He went on to explain, "The veterinarian should visit your horse regularly to *vaccinate* and *de-worm* it. You should also call the veterinarian whenever you see your horse acting sick or injured." "Most importantly," Al concluded, "you need to give your horse plenty of tender loving care. When you own a horse they depend on you for their entire life." "Al," I said, "that is an awful lot of important information. Thank you for being so helpful."

When we returned home, I talked to my mother and father about owning a horse. I realized that we did not have enough space or time to properly care for a horse. Instead my father said that I could take riding lessons at the Rolling Oaks stable. For me, it is the next best thing to having a horse of my very own.

VOCABULARY WORDS

Stall — 10 foot long by 10 foot wide structure for a horse to stay in.

Mucking it out — cleaning out the dirty bedding from a stall.

Cribbing — when a horse sinks its teeth into wood, fencing or stall, and breaths in as much air as it can. Can cause colic.

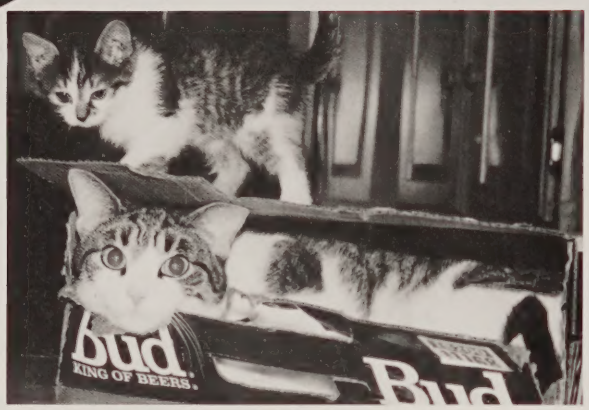
Groom — brushing, washing, and cleaning a horse.

Farrier — a professional person who re-shoes and trims horses' hooves.

Vaccinate — an injection of medicine that will prevent disease.

De-worm — to give a horse medication that will kill any internal parasites it may be suffering from.

PETS IN THE PICTURE



1 "He purrs all the time," reports Dawn Riley of Medford, who recently adopted "Homer," the kitten shown here with two-year-old "Mitzi," who is also a League alumna. "Even though Mitzi pretends to be a snob, we catch her playing and cuddling with Homer when she thinks we're not looking!"

2 Carmen and Michael Urbanas of Melrose write: "We thought we were a single kitty family until 'Shamika' (ARL orphan, 1985) befriended this paper maché feline!"

3 Here "Holly" Pasquale relaxes in the seat of honor after being adopted from the League's Brewster shelter by Peter and Kathi Pasquale of New Jersey. Holly's "grandmother," Alice Pasquale, is a Brewster resident and frequent visitor at the League shelter.

4 "Andy," a recent addition to the family of Constance and Peter Lobody of Yarmouthport, bonded immediately with his new family, including "Tasha," shown here, two other cats and a dog. "By the way," they write, "you didn't tell us he is part kangaroo — you should see him spring four feet off the ground from a standing position!"

5 "I'm very glad to have a good friend like 'Tabby,'" writes Theresa Harrington of Charlestown, who adopted the beige and white male pup two years ago. "When I leave for work every day, he takes over the whole house. When I return, he is at the door to greet me, and he never leaves my side on Saturday and Sunday!"

6 Susan and Jim Barrett of Monument Beach send along this photo of their yellow lab puppy "Maisy Mae Barrett, only five months old, and already reading!"

LOST YOUR BEST FRIEND?

If you have recently lost a pet, it may help to share your feelings with people who understand your loss. Bereavement counseling is available at the Animal Rescue League of Boston, free of charge.

Support Groups or Individual Counseling

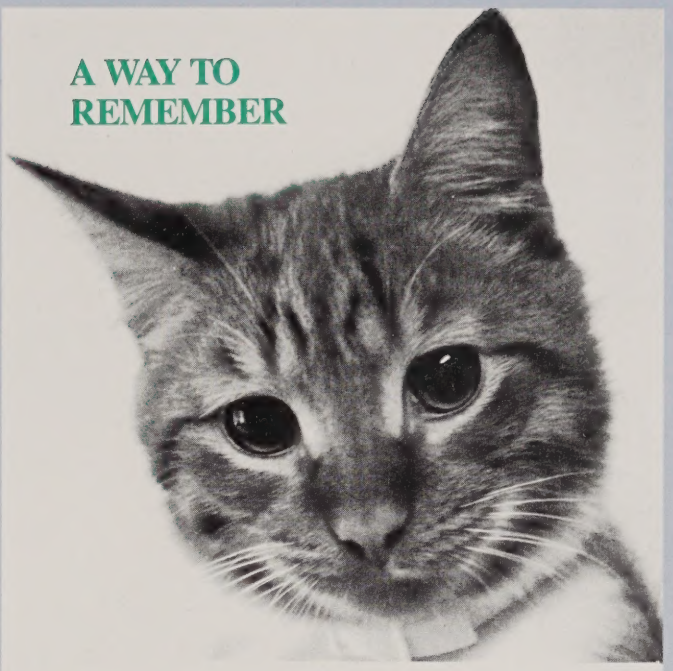
For information, or appointment, call Janice Bosworth at 426-9170, Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Companion Animal Bereavement Program

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

10 Chandler Street • Boston, MA 02116

A WAY TO REMEMBER



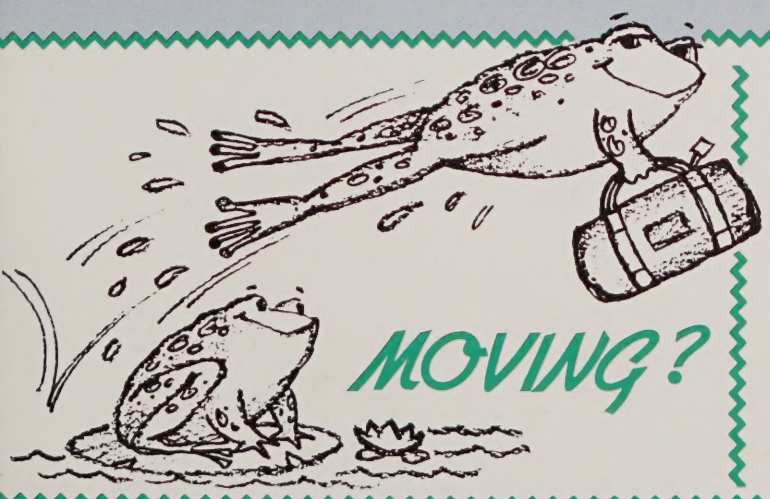
The League continues to rely on the generosity of its friends to meet the ever-expanding needs of our animal population. The cruel realism of inflation makes the League's task in providing needed services more difficult than ever, but with continued support, the challenge can and will be met.

In making a bequest to the League in your Will, please remember that the corporate title of our society is **"Animal Rescue League of Boston,"** that it was incorporated in 1899, and has no connection with any other similar society.

Form of Bequest

I give to the Animal Rescue League of Boston the sum of _____ dollars.

Animal Rescue League of Boston
10 Chandler Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116



Please let us know if you're planning to move so we can be sure that you receive **OUR FOURFOOTED FRIENDS** without interruption.

Old Address:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(please print or attach mailing label)

New Address:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please allow two months for us to correct our mailing list.

TAKE TIME TO STOP AND SMELL THE FLOWERS — photo by Sharon Bellas of Orleans.

Our Fourfooted Friends (US ISSN 0030-6851)
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265, Boston, Massachusetts 02117